

*myrtilus* L.) in the surrounding area. In Colin Pratt's book, "A History of the Butterflies and Moths of Sussex", it is noted that this species since 1976 "has become regular in appearance in several places". However, I have only seen one other specimen from this area, that being recorded some years ago from near Catsfield. *Paracolax derivalis* Hubn. (Clay Fan-foot) in its single annual occurrence on the 14th, along with this, being recorded for the first time here, was a single *Phytometra viridaria* Clerk (Small Purple Barred). Perhaps the most noteworthy catch of the night was a female *Chesias rufata* Fab. (Broom-tip); South mentions this species as occurring in Sussex. Its status in E. Sussex is now considered as "very local" and "very rare". There are quite large patches of Broom (*Sarothamnus scoparius* L.) some distance from the position of the trap, these may be worth further investigation. — M. PARSONS, The Forge, Russells Green, Ninfield, near Battle, E. Sussex.

BUCCULATRIX THORACELLA THUNB. CONFIRMED FOR VICE-COUNTY 11. — I have just taken a fresh specimen of *Bucculatrix thoracella* on the frame of my bedroom window which faces an avenue of tall limes planted some 130 years ago. Goater (*The Butterflies and Moths of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, 34) quotes Hervey's List for Hants but cannot confirm the record. Although in Dorset, Highcliffe is in vice-county 11, so it seemed worth confirming its presence here. — E. H. WILD, 7 Abbots Close, Highcliffe, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 5BH, 28.vii.82.

A FEEDING HABIT OF BRACHYOPA SCUTELLARIS (DESVOIDY) (DIPT., SYRPHIDAE). — *Brachyopa scutellaris* does not seem to be a common insect in the north of England. I first took a specimen, a male, when sweeping under trees here at Kendal Wood on 26 May 1979. My second acquaintance with the fly was much more interesting. On 29 May 1981 I was gardening, again at Kendal Wood, and my arms were sweating considerably and exposed when a fly landed on one of them and clearly commenced to imbibe my sweat. The action of the proboscis was clearly visible and the fact of the drinking was quite obvious. I did not immediately have a suitable receptacle for the insect but went into the house to obtain a few tubes. On returning to my gardening activities another fly of the same species landed on my arm and this time was duly caught. It proved to be a female *B. scutellaris*. The following day, 30th., I was again gardening and was visited by two or three *scutellaris* again to imbibe. At this time it was noticed that they were rather sluggish flies and on being brushed off ones arms went to the ground-sheet on which I was kneeling and showed little inclination to fly.

I do not recollect reading of this habit of imbibing sweat by a Syrphid. Most adult Syrphids feed on pollen, nectar or a mixture of the two. The late A. E. Wright of Grange-over-Sands recorded the capture of seven specimens "— taken flying round flowers of Mountain Ash" (*North Western Naturalist* 15 : 242-247). It would be interesting to learn if other entomologists have experience of similar feeding habits by Syrphids. — Dr. NEVILLE L. BIRKETT, Kendal Wood, New Hutton, Cumbria, LA8 OAQ. 28.iv.1982.